



Learn and Serve America

FACT SHEET

Learn and Serve America (LSA) provides grants to schools, colleges, and nonprofits to support programs that enrich learning through community service. For example, students studying nutrition may put their knowledge into action by conducting food drives, teaching others about healthy diets, or creating community gardens. This approach to education, called service-learning, helps address community needs while developing students' academic skills and the habits of responsible citizenship. In fiscal year 2001, LSA supported 2,500 service-learning programs that engaged approximately 1.5 million students. LSA also supports programs that recognize exemplary service-learning programs at schools and leadership in service by students. LSA is administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service, the federal agency that also oversees AmeriCorps and Senior Corps.

School-Based Program

Grants are made by formula to state education agencies, which distribute them to schools on a competitive basis. Grants also are made on a competitive basis to Indian tribes, U.S. territories, and nonprofit organizations. Schools receive grants to work in partnership with local nonprofits to plan, implement, and expand service activities for students ages 5 to 17. Schools also use funds for teacher training, program evaluation, and to support service-learning coordinators. Each project must provide 10 percent to 50 percent of the total program cost in non-federal matching funds; the percentage increases each successive year the project receives a grant.

Community-Based Program

Funds are awarded by the Corporation to Governor-appointed state service commissions and to nonprofit organizations to plan, implement, expand, and replicate service-learning programs in local communities. Participants in these programs may include youth ages 5 to 17 who are not in school. The matching funds requirements are the same for School- and

Community-Based grants. All LSA grants are for a period of three years, annually renewable contingent upon performance and the availability of funds. In fiscal year 2001, School- and Community-Based programs accounted for 106 of Learn and Serve America's 168 grantees.

Higher Education Program

Through a competitive grants process, the Corporation awards funds directly to individual colleges and universities or to higher education consortia to create and strengthen programs and courses that integrate community service with academic study. Grants support partnerships between higher education institutions and community organizations. Higher education institutions may also conduct research and evaluation, provide technical assistance, and supplement Federal Work-Study programs that focus on community service. Higher Education grants must be matched dollar for dollar in cash or in donated goods and services. In fiscal year 2001, Learn and Serve America supported 62 college and university projects.

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FACT SHEET

National Service-Learning Leader Schools

The Leader Schools program recognizes high schools and middle schools each year for excellence in service-learning. Leader Schools receive no cash award but are asked to help other schools start or improve their service-learning programs. In 2002, 16 schools from 13 states were designated Leader Schools, joining 200 other schools who have held this title since 1999. For more information, call 800-628-8442 or visit www.leaderschools.org.

Presidential Freedom Scholarships

Presidential Freedom Scholarships of \$1,000 are awarded to high school juniors or seniors who demonstrate outstanding leadership in service to their community and submit a brief essay on the significance of that service in light of the events of September 11, 2001. The recipients are chosen by school officials and must have given at least 100 hours of service in the past 12 months. All high schools in the U.S. are eligible to choose two recipients. The Corporation provides \$500 toward each scholarship, which must be matched by the school or local community. For more information, call 866-291-7700 or visit www.nationalservice.org/scholarships.

President's Student Service Awards

The President's Student Service Awards are designed to recognize leadership in service to the community by students and to encourage more young people to serve. Any student in kindergarten through college who serves at least 100 hours within a 12-month period is eligible to receive a Gold Award, while Silver Awards are given to students in kindergarten through eighth grade who serve at least 50 hours during a 12-month period. Student service may be certified by schools,

colleges, or community organizations. Winners receive a pin and a certificate signed by the President. For more information on the awards, call 866-550-PSSA (7772) or visit www.student-service-awards.org.

Service-Learning Resources

LSA provides a variety of resources to schools and community organizations to help them plan, implement, and improve service-learning programs. The National Service-Learning Clearinghouse offers a repository of tools, information, and research on service-learning. It can be contacted by calling 866-245-SERV (7378) or by visiting www.servicelearning.org. The National Service-Learning Exchange is a peer network that provides customized information and support to strengthen service-learning programs. For more information, call 877-572-3924 or visit www.nslexchange.org.

Budget

LSA's enacted budget for fiscal year 2002 is \$43 million.

More Information

For more information about LSA programs or to find out more about service-learning, call 202-606-5000, ext. 117 or visit www.learnandserve.org.

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